

k e w a

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY, 1982 82-1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Does *Egypt* represent the ultimate in archaeological mystery and excitement to you? Does it conjure up images of Indiana Reid? Well, if you, like me, could not afford the time and/or money to participate in last year's O.A.S. tours to Egypt, then here is your chance to see what you missed!

Mr. Charles Garrad will provide a colourful slide illustrated presentation on the tours next Thursday evening (January 14/8:00 P.M.) at the Museum of Indian Archaeology. Come along and bask in the sun bathed temples of ancient Egypt! Bring a friend...

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Our new Chapter executive got right down to business in Thamesford on December 29. Paul, George and Ted met at the Keron residence and discussed matters such as the Fall 1982 bus tour to Ohio. Also, the establishment of a Chapter archives was proposed. It was decided that our Chapter lab. sessions would be held on Tuesdays (7:30 P.M) at 55 Centre Street, starting on January 19. Those interested in participating should contact our president, Jim Keron, at the upcoming meeting or by calling 285-2379 after 6:00 P.M.

Further agenda topics included future speakers and the possibility of a members presentation night in February, as well as the collection of membership dues for 1982 - yes it's that time again! Members wishing to present a talk in February should contact our programme convenor, vice-president Paul Lennox. Finally, future Chapter executive meetings are to be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and will alternate between Thamesford, St. Mary's and St. Thomas.

SOCIAL REPORT

Those attending the Chapter Christmas party may remember the brief slide presentation concerning the Chatham vessel rescue project, as well as the colourful, but somewhat lengthy films on Southern and Central American archaeological treasures. Thereafter, a rather small gathering attacked an enormous buffet. The excellent food was complemented by a variety of beverage contributing to the festive mood. It was only unfortunate that more members could not have attended and enjoyed our Chapter party!

Once more your KEWA editor will issue his plaintive (and repetitive) cry for contributed research papers. There, it's done! Now, this month's offering is by - you guessed it!

AN INITIAL REPORT ON THE DYMOCK VILLAGES (AeHJ-2)

WILLIAM A. FOX

Among the Ministry's many rescue projects of 1981, the excavation of the Dymock villages proved to be particularly interesting. We were contacted by our A.C.O. Stan Wortner in April concerning construction of the new Walkers Bridge across the Thames River on Elgin County Road 5. A field check later that month indicated the existing county road intersected an Early Late Woodland site and that the proposed re-alignment would destroy what remained of it. Consequently, a rescue excavation was organized.

Field work began as the Calvert project was winding down in late May, and continued into early July. A number of London Chapter members participated in the Dymock excavation and Ron Williamson's Caradoc crew provided some additional much needed assistance. Almost 600 man/hours were spent in the field mapping and excavating 90 features.

The new road alignment was stripped of topsoil using a motorized scraper which was provided by the County of Elgin Engineering Department through their construction contractor. As we cleared and mapped sub-soil features on the lower terrace, a palisade line became evident. It was followed in an arc which did not encompass the top of the sand knoll - apparently, there were two activity areas or perhaps

two settlements separated by a distance of roughly 20 metres. Figures 1 and 2 describe the community pattern which ultimately emerged. During the excavation, ceramic differences between the two areas, as well as an apparent paucity of carbonized corn in the lower terrace pits suggested that the latter represented a slightly earlier occupation.

DYMOCK I

Figure 1 describes the feature distribution and palisade line of this the northern component, illustrating that we recorded only the perimeter of a hamlet or village of unknown size. Palisade post hole diameters and depths averaged 10.7 cm and 15.6 cm, respectively. Additional smaller posts were recorded inside the palisade; however, no house wall alignments could be discerned, despite the presence of a hearth. A sub-plough zone hillside dump outside the hamlet wall extended west toward an apparent palisade opening, while another gap in the post line to the north coincides with a ridge or saddle leading down to the Thames River. The cluster of pits adjacent to the latter and outside the palisade is of interest.

Rosemary Prevec's faunal analysis indicates that the inhabitants were harvesting pickerel and sucker from the adjacent Thames River, most likely during the spring spawning runs. Some catfish and bass are also represented, as are other aquatic food resources such as clams and turtles. Mammals identified include deer, bear, raccoon, beaver, grey squirrel, chipmunk and vole. The only birds identified were passenger pigeon, wild turkey, a great blue heron, and possibly a great horned owl. While some deer were definitely procured in the spring, the other abundant remains may indicate a fall occupation.

DYMOCK I (LOWER COMPONENT)

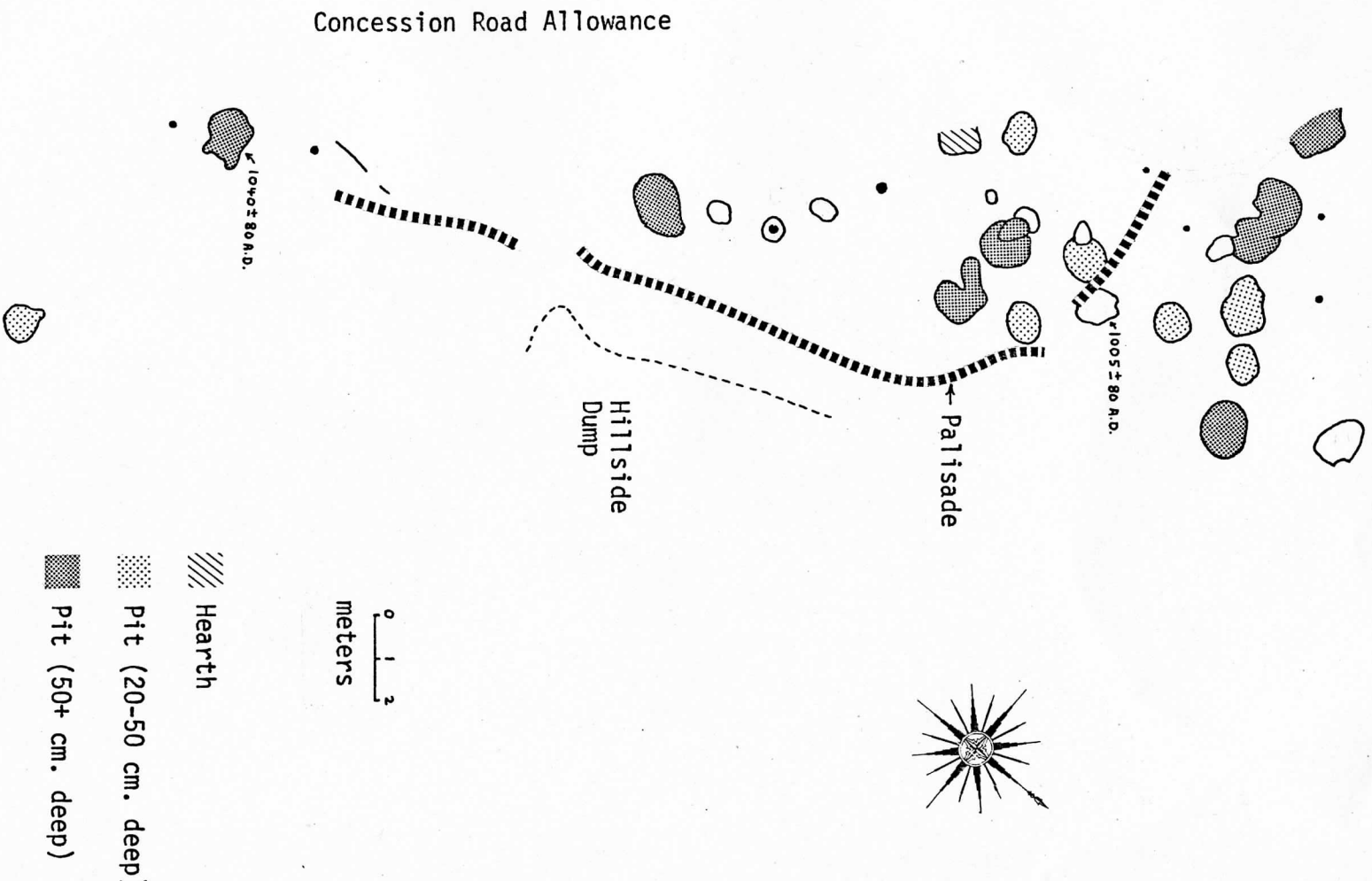


FIGURE 1.

DYMOCK II (UPPER COMPONENT)

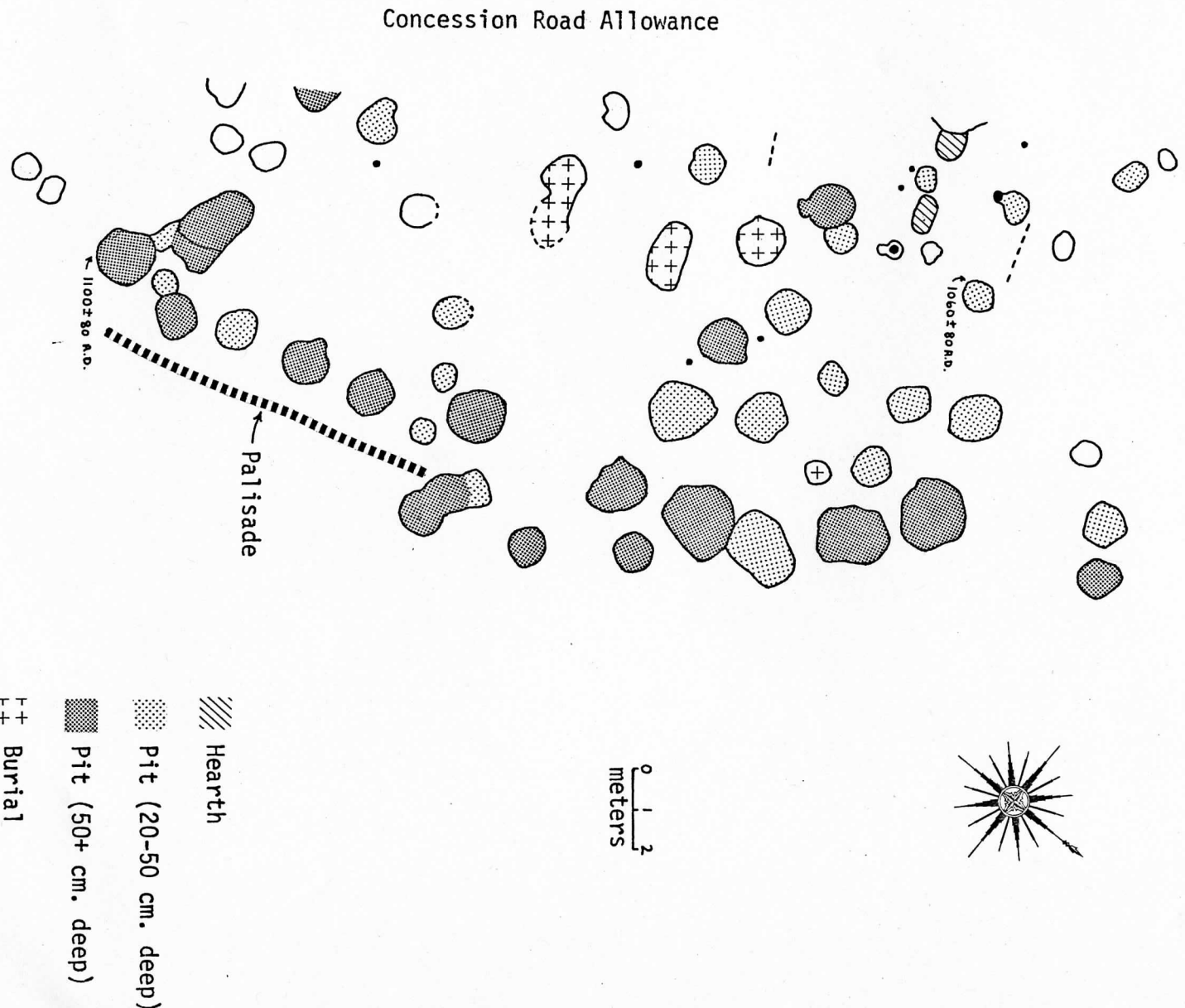


FIGURE 2.

Martin Cooper's archaeobotanical analysis has identified much squash and some corn on both Dymock components. The Dymock I pit radiocarbon dated to 1040 ± 80 A.D. (see Figure 1) produced vast quantities of carbonized sumac seeds, as well as squash. Other plant foods represented on these sites include butternut, raspberry, strawberry and elderberry. More details will be provided in a forthcoming KEWA article by Martin.

Artifact washing continues, but one of the most striking characteristics of the ceramic assemblage from both components is its heterogeneity. There are a wide range of vessel forms, sizes and decorative motifs represented.

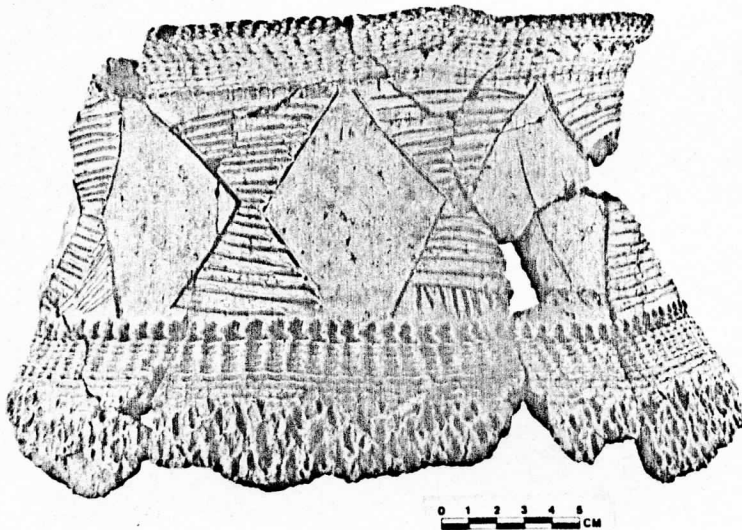


FIGURE 3: Rim Section from Pit Feature 29, Level 2.
(Dymock I)

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate portions of two ceramic vessels from a pit dated to 1040 A.D. (see Figure 1). These display a variety of decorative techniques, as well as an interesting willingness to change motif as one proceeds around the vessel. The small vessel *a* in Figure 5 also derives from Dymock I.

The favoured chert in both components is Onondaga, much of which may have been obtained in local secondary deposits as pebbles. Triangular "Levanna" style arrowpoints are the norm and there are a variety of flake scrapers, graters, etc.

DYMOCK II

While only 23 features were recorded in the lower component, 59 were excavated on Dymock II (see Figure 2). More of this particular village or hamlet had escaped previous road building destruction; however, ploughing and wind deflation had seriously truncated portions of the knoll.

This had obliterated the northern section of the palisade, plus the east end of what may have been a longhouse structure. An average depth of 17.6 cm for the extant palisade line suggests how much soil has been lost.

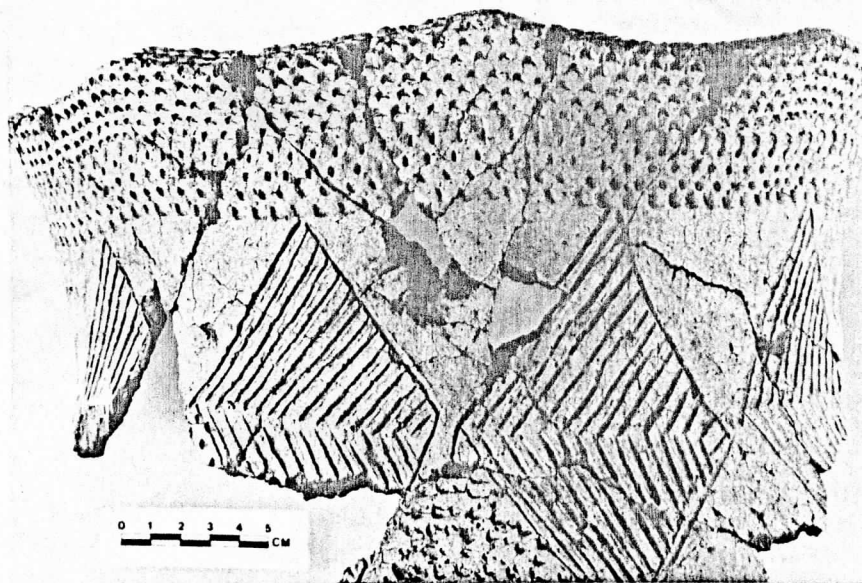


FIGURE 4: Rim Section from Pit Feature 29, Level 2 (Dymock I)

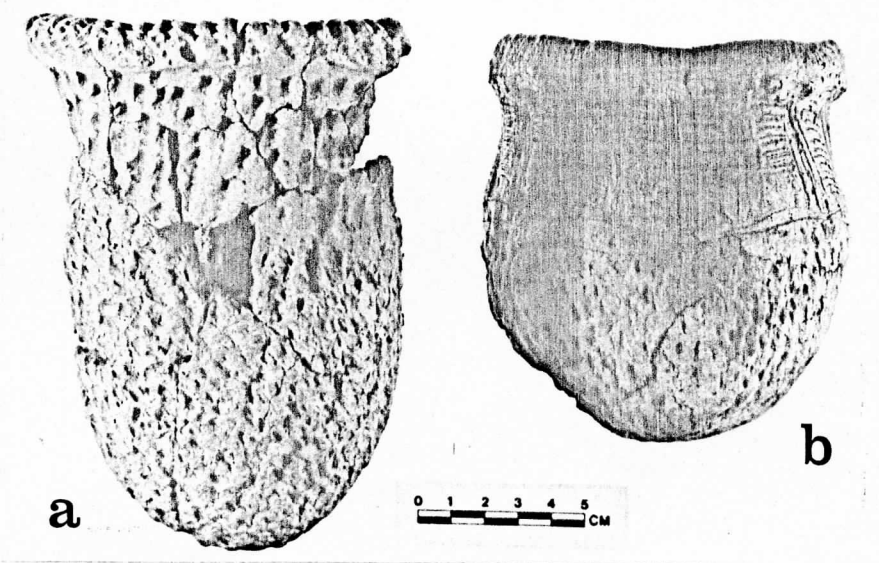


FIGURE 5: Small Ceramic Vessels
a. Pit Feature 18, Level 2 (Dymock I)
b. Pit Feature 38 (Dymock II)

Light dash lines on either side of the aligned hearths depict possible wall post alignments (see Figure 2). The distribution of deep storage(?) pits paralleling the palisade interior to the south suggests the former palisade alignment in the truncated area to the north. All four graves on Dymock II consisted of exhumed primary

burials, which were probably re-interred elsewhere in secondary graves similar to those recorded by Kidd (1954) on the Krieger village near Chatham. The smallest burial pit contained the carefully interred remains of a puppy.

Faunal material from this component is very similar to that of Dymock I, with spring spawning pickerel and suckers in abundance. Clams, turtles and a frog are represented, with the only identified bird being wild turkey. Mammals include primarily deer, but also elk, bear, raccoon, beaver, woodchuck, squirrel and chipmunk.

As mentioned earlier, the ceramic vessels are of diverse form and size (see Figure 5 b). Many rims exhibit coarse downward slanted exterior punctates. Abundant lithic debris indicates that chert knappers were producing bifaces on site, probably primarily "Levanna" style projectile points and biface knives.

SOME CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

Much artifact processing, let alone description and analysis, remains to be done; however, some patterns are emerging. The four radio-carbon dates for Dymock I and II (see Figure 1 and 2) indicate that the two components are essentially contemporary eleventh century sites, but that Dymock II may be slightly later. There are a certain number of overlapping pits on Dymock I, posing the possibility of a fairly lengthy occupation. Despite the abundance of pits uncovered on Dymock II, there are very few overlaps or tangent features, suggesting that this hamlet or village was occupied by a single group, unlike the Krieger village to the west.

Plant and animal remains from both components indicate a spring and probably a fall season occupation. Whether these sites were occupied year round is impossible to tell at present, and may never be known.

The clay cooking vessels from both villages are quite different from those used by contemporary Glen Meyer groups occupying the Caradoc sand

plain to the east. Certain vessel decorative attributes, plus the diversity of forms are not characteristic of the Early Ontario Iroquois as they are presently understood. Burial practices and the artifact assemblage as a whole are closely comparable to one of the Krieger site occupations and suggest a relationship to the Yonge Phase of the Western Basin Tradition (Stothers and Pratt, 1981). We are gaining some idea of what activities occurred on these interesting sites, but the big question remains - who were these people?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to the aforementioned field volunteers and analysts, the perseverance of our regular crew (despite sun stroke and sore backs) is gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Ian Kenyon, Jeff Hohner and Chris Hohner formed the nucleus and were ably assisted on occasion by Ms. Karen Gale and Christine Farrell. Flotation of 752 litres of pit fill was accomplished by Ms. Jennifer Dixon, Linda Gibbs, Mr. Wayne Hagerty and Rob MacDonald, courtesy of Mr. Ron Williamson.

We also wish to thank the land owner, Mr. John Dymock, and Mr. Bob Davies of the Elgin County Engineering Department for their cooperation. Finally, thank you Stan for your timely report.

cut here

.....
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - LONDON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (1982)

I (we) wish to join the Chapter as a:

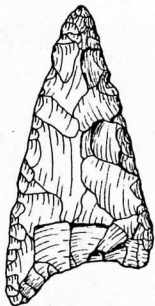
	O.A.S.	LONDON	TOTAL FEE
Individual	10.00	6.00	\$16.00
Family	12.00	8.00	\$20.00
Institution	20.00	12.00	\$32.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

GLEN MEYER POINTS



SIZE: These biface points range from 30-59 mm in length, 16-27 mm in width and 4-6 mm in thickness.

SHAPE: The lateral edges of these triangular points can vary from concave to convex, but the modal configuration is convex. Bases are always concave and oblique to the long axis. In certain cases, the obliqueness is exaggerated to form a pronounced uni-lateral barb.

FLAKING: Bifacial retouch is irregular and may cover both faces; nevertheless, some specimens are simply edge retouched on the second face.

RAW MATERIAL: Most Glen Meyer points were manufactured from Onondaga chert; however, Kettle Point chert was utilized by some of the more westerly groups.

DISTRIBUTIONS: They are found scattered across Southwestern Ontario from the Niagara Escarpment and Peninsula to the east to Lambton County in the west, and primarily within the Carolinian biotic province.

AGE AND CULTURAL AFFILIATIONS: These triangular points are characteristic of the western Early Ontario Iroquois, but do occur on sites dating as early as the eighth century. They continue in use until c. 1300 A.D.

REMARKS: Glen Meyer points are produced on flake blanks and vary from roughly equilateral to lenticular isoceles in form. The latter shape is quite distinctive, with the barbed lateral margin often being concave, so that these long points may someday be defined as a separate type. The exaggerated assymetric forms can be further enhanced by a shouldered barb and Noble (1975) refers to certain of the barbed specimens as *Glen Meyer Spurred*.

